Design Resource

Soft Toys - Yadgiri, Karnataka

Stuffed toys for kids

by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.
NID, Bengaluru

Source:
https://www.dsource.in/resource/soft-toys-yadgiri-karnataka

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
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Introduction

Children have always played with toys, whether 2,000 years ago or now. Hence they were a part of human life for ages. In the olden days, they were made of things collected from nature, but gradually, they went through innovations with time. Toys play an important role in a child's life, as it contributes a lot to their social as well as language skills. If exposed to the right kind of toys, it serves multiple purposes like entertainment, education, and skill development. They also help to boost the child's creativity and impart the right behavior. Physical and mental wellbeing is a basic necessity of a human being, toys can help prepare the children for their latter part of life to a large extent. For Babies, toys with bright colours, unusual textures, and interesting sounds are good things to look for. It is often used to encourage the child to eat and mimic appropriate behavior at mealtime or bedtime.

Soft Toys making is one of the easily executed activities with the least investment. The perks being its employability and skill development scopes, as most of the units are run by women. These toys made of fur cloth are always in great demand in the market. The toys in various colours, designs, and sizes are more popular in the shape of animals. One among them being teddy bears and cartoon characters. With their constant upward demand, companies from all over the world eyes India as a potential customer in the international market. Concurrently, India is also emerging as a great player in the market.

In India, several artisans unfold their passion for stitching and earn a living through toy making. Likewise, an artisan named Mrs. Geetha, belonging to the Yadgir district of Karnataka is into the craft for a decade. She has provided training and employment to several women from local area at Tirumala Garments Training Center, making them self-standing to earn a living. Artisans here do the soft toy craft and are also involved in some other craftworks like hand embroidery.

Tirumala Garments Training Center in Gurmatkal, approved by the Government of Karnataka.

Ms. Geeta, trainer cum artisan from Tirumala Garments Training Center.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw material required for Soft toy making:

- **Needle:** A steel needle is used to stitch.
- **Thread:** Cotton threads are used for stitching purposes.
- **Pencil:** It is used to draw the pattern for cutting.
- **Fur Cloth:** Main raw material used to make soft toys.
- **Scissor:** It is used for cutting cloth and thread.
- **Cotton Fibre:** Filled inside the toy for stuffing.

A scissor is used to cut the soft cloth in the required shape.

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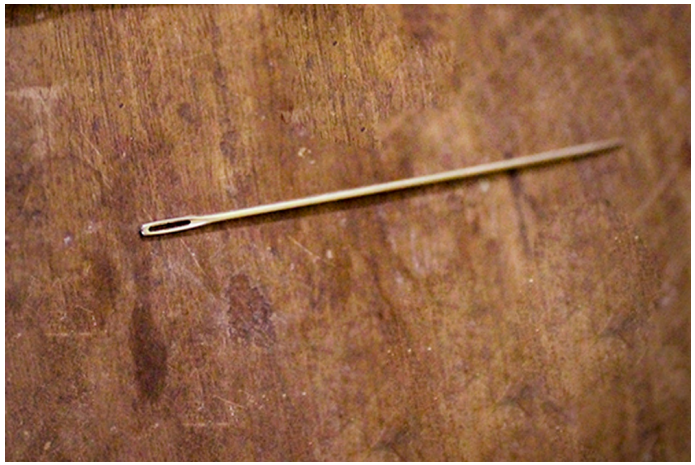
A feather cloth used by craftsman to make a soft toy.

The cotton is used to fill in the stitched toy.

Coloured yarn is used to stitch the soft cloth.



A needle used to stitch the soft toys when threaded.

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Making Process

The making process of soft toys involves just a few steps namely; cutting, stitching and knitting. Hence it is often considered an easy and investment-friendly profession. Firstly the purchased fur fabric is marked with the intended pattern with a pencil. Here the plain side of the fabric is used to draw the pattern. Once it is done, the cloth is cut according to the design of the toy, using a scissor. Then the cloth is stitched and the edges are slightly pulled out. In the sewing stage, the seams are made on the back of the fur cloth so the stitch is not visible. Now the cut pieces are placed together according to their apt positions and again stitches are run to keep them connected. The details like nose, mouth, beaks, horns, etc. are often stitched separately and attached. For eyes, stickers, or readymade polymer clay eyes are used. The artisans also experiment with varied colour combinations for the toys in order to win the attention of kids or other customers. At the last stage of the making, a little space is left at the back of the intended structure as a cavity to fill in cotton fiber inside the toy. After filling the cotton, a fine stitch is made through them to ensure a strong joint.

The artisan using a sketch pen to draw a pattern at the back of the soft cloth.

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The Artisan cutting the soft cloth using a scissor.

The Artisan cutting the cloth to achieve an intended shape.

Cutting the soft cloth for making the wing.

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The Artisan ready with all the raw materials to make the soft toys.

Stitching the cloth edge with a threaded needle.

A stage in the soft toy making where the stitching is partially completed.

The final stage of soft toy stitching.

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Artisan filling in the cotton fiber inside the doll.

After filling the cotton inside the doll, sewing the cavity space, and giving shape.

A final look of a soft doll done in a duck's shape.

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Products

The price of Indian soft toys ranges from Rupees 30 to 2000, depending on the quality of the fur cloth used. The most common soft toys available in the market are Teddy Bear, Joker, Cartoon Characters, Animals and Bird Shapes, etc.

Beautiful Santa Claus soft toy.

A red coloured teddy bear bag made of a soft cloth.

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Rabbit shaped soft toy done with two different colours.

Mixed colour Mickey Mouse soft doll.

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Mixed colour Mickey Mouse soft doll.

The teddy bear doll is made with purple and white colour fabrics.

Dolphin done with two different colour fabrics.

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This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B. at NID, Bengaluru.

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